REMARKS

This application contains claims 1-30. Claims 1, 11, and 21 are hereby amended. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 11 and 21 have been amended to correct an informality. The claims now recite "receiving an input from the operator indicative of whether an error occurred...," rather than "whether the computer erred...." This change is supported in the specification on page 4, lines 6-8.

Claims 1, 3-11, 13-21 and 23-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Chevion et al. (U.S. Patent 5,455,875) in view of Wilber et al. (U.S. Patent 4,897,880). Claims 2, 12 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Chevion in view of Wilber and further in view of Fulkerson et al. (U.S. Patent 4,695,721). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Chevion describes a system and method for correction of OCR with display of image segments according to character data. The system presents a "carpet" of character images on the screen of a computer terminal for viewing and verification by a human operator. Segmented characters from multiple documents are sorted according to the codes assigned to them by the OCR. The character images, each containing a single character, are then grouped and presented in the carpet for verification according to their assigned code. As noted by the Examiner, Chevion relates only to display and verification of alphanumeric characters and makes no suggestion that this method might be applied to non-character image elements.

Wilber describes a method and system for alphanumeric character recognition (abstract). The method is directed particularly to solving problems associated with hand-held optical scanners (col. 2, lines 17-43). The method is based

on obtaining feature vectors from a scanned pattern and then comparing them to feature vectors of known patterns (abstract). Wilber mentions that this automatic pattern recognition technique may be applied to non-alphanumeric graphic images, as well (col. 9, lines 14-17).

Claim 1 in the present patent application recites a method for image processing in which image elements (which are not individual characters) having the same classification are displayed together for a human operator. An input is received from the operator indicative of whether an error occurred in the classification of any of the displayed elements. In other words, claim 1 is concerned explicitly with facilitating verification and correction of recognition results by a human operator.

Wilber, on the other hand, is concerned exclusively with automatic image recognition. Wilber's methods are carried out exclusively by electronic circuits, without human involvement (beyond the possible stage of operating the scanner). Wilber makes no mention or suggestion of any technique whatsoever for displaying his results or for verification of the results by a human operator. At best, the cited passages in Wilber state the well-known fact that automatic pattern recognition techniques may be applied to non-textual images. These passages say nothing about methods of display or verification.

To summarize, neither Chevion nor Wilber provides any sort of teaching or suggestion regarding display and verification of image elements that are not individual characters, as required by claim 1. As noted in MPEP 2143.03, "To establish *prima facie* obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art." Therefore, claim 1 is believed to be patentable over the cited art. In view of the

patentability of claim 1, claims 2-9, which depend from claim 1, are believed to be patentable, as well.
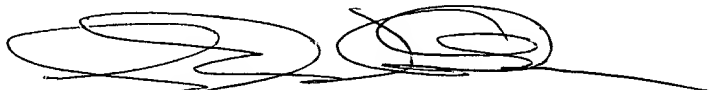
Claims 11 and 21 respectively recite apparatus and a computer software product, which operate on principles similar to the method of claim 1. These claims were rejected on the same grounds as claim 1. Therefore, for the reasons stated above, claims 11 and 21 are believed to be patentable over the cited art, as are claims 12-20, which depend from claim 11, and claims 22-30, which depend from claim 21.

CONCLUSION

Applicant believes the amendments and remarks presented hereinabove to be fully responsive to all of the grounds of rejection raised by the Examiner. In view of these amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims in the present application are in order for allowance. Notice to this effect is hereby requested.

Please charge any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 23-1951.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew M. Calderon
Registration No. 38,093

McGuireWoods, LLP
Suite 1800
1750 Tysons Blvd.
McLean, VA 22102
(703) 712-5426

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